

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Tadzhik SSR)

SUBJECT Seaplane Base on Lake Iskander Kul;
Miscellaneous Information on Tadzhik SSR

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. A huge hydroelectric power station known as Varsob GES is located 10 km north of Stalinabad, on the bank of the Ilragon (?) River, a tributary of the Varsob River. The station supplies the entire industry located in the Gis Valley and Stalinabad with electric power. The capacity of the station is 155,000 kilowatt hours. Near the power house are located transformers and generators. The turbine section is located about one km from the station itself.
2. About 75 hot springs exist near Stalinabad in the defile of the Khalzhi - Obigarm River. The temperature reaches 90 degrees Celsius. The water is rich in radioactive salts and sulphurs. A road leads from Stalinabad to this place.
3. The road goes farther east through the Anzob Pass to the Matcha (formerly Zeravshan) River, about 150 km from Stalinabad. One of its tributaries is the Iskander-Kul River, which forms lake Iskander-Kul. A military seaplane base and airfield are located at this lake.
4. Lake Iskander-Kul was presumably created by the fall of rocks, which barred the flow of the Iskander-Kul River, thus forming the lake. It is located 8,000 feet above sea level, and is surrounded by high mountains reaching 16,000 feet. The lake itself is eight km long, three km wide, and about 450 m deep. Two almost merged waterfalls, 50 to 60 meters wide, are located at the east end of the lake. The height of the falls is about 85 meters. It is very important for the irrigation of the dry regions located in the vicinity.
5. A huge dam was erected at the end of the lake below the waterfall which permits the regulation of the flow of the river. If the dam were to be blown up, the water from the lake would flood the industrial plants located in the Gisur Valley.
6. At the northwest bank of the lake is located a hydro-medical (?) station which was built some years ago. There were some small houses for the station's personnel and for people employed at the dam.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A

- 2 -

7. In May 1945 military barracks for seaplane base personnel were built. Three two-story blocks were almost ready, and two blocks were under construction. Not far from the barracks which were already built existed a newly completed meteorological station which was already in operation.
8. Six hangars were already finished on the north bank, each of which was 80 meters long, 60 meters wide, and 10 to 12 meters high. The walls were of brick, and the roofs of iron painted dark red. Eight such hangars were under construction on the south bank. The banks where the hangars were located were enclosed by concrete walls which rose above the water level 60 to 80 cm.
9. A group of prisoners was working in front of the hangars on the south side of the lake, about 200 meters away from the hangars. They were leveling the ground for a landing platform. Large quantities of granite and cement were stored near this place. No planes were at the base during informant's stay there.
10. In the region of the lake are many mountain pastures, on which grows small plain grass called "Chisur" (poison) (sic) by the indigenous population. This grass contains a high percentage of ingredients from which the poison gas yperite* is produced. The Soviet military authorities are very interested in this grass. It is collected by a government agency and transported in trucks to Stalinabad, from where it is forwarded to an unknown destination.
11. Stalinabad is one of the forwarding points for arms and munitions destined for the Chinese Communist troops. Informant met a prisoner who, from 1945-47, worked at reloading arms and munitions which arrived in large quantities at Stalinabad from the railway carriages to three-ton trucks. They were then forwarded to Chinese Turkestan.
12. Tin deposits are located in the western part of Tadzhikistan which are exploited by two huge combines at Riddor and Fergana. This region also produces from 22 to 30 grams of radium yearly.
13. Layers of bentonit are located at the northwestern slope of the Gissar mountain range. The small quantities of this mineral found in Soviet territory are used in perfume, sugar, and war industries. In the latter, bentonit is used for the production of anti-gas respirators. Forced laborers are removing thousands of cubic meters of sand and earth in order to reach five to seven cm thick layers of bentonit.
14. A department of the MVD is stationed in Stalinabad with sections which conduct counter-intelligence and secret service activities on Indian territory. Infantry, mountain artillery, and light tank units are stationed along the Amu Darya River.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: Natural poison is not used in the production of yperite.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: Unit of time not given.

Attachments: I. Sketch map of Uzbekistan and Tadzhikistan area
 II. Sketch map of Iskander Kul area

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